

## News and Views

Sir John Marshall, C.I.E.

SIR JOHN H. MARSHALL, it is reported by the Bombay correspondent of the *Times*, has been awarded the triennial gold medal for historical research by the Royal Asiatic Society of Bombay. Sir John Marshall, who was director-general of the Archaeological Survey of India from 1902 until 1931, was formerly a scholar of King's College, Cambridge, and was a student of the British School of Archaeology at Athens in 1898-99. He was Prendergast student in 1900-1 and Craven student in 1901-2, while in 1927 his old college made him an honorary fellow. Under his directorship, the work of the Archaeological Survey of India has been much stimulated, especially in the direction of excavation of prehistoric and early historic sites. It was due to him that the work was undertaken which led to the epoch-making discovery of the prehistoric sites in the Indus Valley at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, and on his initiative that the co-operation of investigators from outside the service, experienced in the exploration of the sites of Mesopotamia and with knowledge of the cultures of that area, was invited.

Prof. Paul A. Murphy

THE Royal Dublin Society's Boyle medal, awarded to Prof. Paul A. Murphy in recognition of the value of his work in phytopathology, was presented to him at a special scientific meeting of the Society on May 5. The medal, which was instituted in commemoration of Robert Boyle, the illustrious Irish chemist, is awarded to Irish workers in all branches of science, pure and applied, whose work is adjudged to be of outstanding merit and importance. It was first awarded in 1899 to Prof. G. Johnstone Stoney for his work, which included what was probably the first approximate estimate of the electronic charge. Prof. Murphy's name is the eleventh on the list of holders. In presenting the report of the Committee of Science recommending the award of the medal, Prof. H. H. Dixon gave a brief summary of Prof. Murphy's work, which may be said to have commenced with his investigations in conjunction with Dr. G. H. Pethybridge into the life-history and biology of *Phytophthora infestans*, the fungus responsible for potato blight. Prof. Murphy then attacked the problem of the virus diseases and showed that the progressive deterioration which generally occurs in every variety of the potato is attributable to the accumulation of virus in successive crops. His work has also thrown much light on the complex nature of many virus diseases. He has contributed largely to our knowledge of various diseases of other plants, amongst which onion mildew and dry rot in turnips may be especially mentioned. Sir Frederick Moore, in supporting the award, referred especially to the great value of the work on potato blight, and of the important bearing of the investigations into the virus diseases on the seed potato industry. In making the presentation to Prof. Murphy, the Right Hon. Viscount Powerscourt, president of the Society,

pointed out how particularly appropriate it was for the presentation to be made at a meeting held during the Society's Agricultural Show, since Prof. Murphy's work, in addition to being of great importance to pure science, is also a very valuable contribution to the advancement of agriculture, thus linking the two great branches of the Society's activities.

International Colonial Conference, 1935

A BRIEF announcement in the latter part of last month that Lord Lugard had been elected president of the Institut Colonial International at the biennial conference held at Lisbon on April 18-20 seems to have attracted very little attention. In an article by Prof. Basil Williams which appears in the *Times* of May 4, it is pointed out that Great Britain, the power most extensively interested in questions relating to colonial administration, has taken a relatively unimportant part in the conferences held by the Institut. These have been supported more especially by France, Holland, Belgium and Portugal. Great Britain, the United States and Italy, however, as well as these powers, are represented in the secretariat of the Institut. As the next conference will be held in London in 1935, under the presidency of Lord Lugard, and among the subjects already marked for special consideration is the question of the detribalisation of natives, it may be hoped that an active part will be taken in the work of the conference by officials and others who are concerned, whether in practice or as a matter of scientific study, with the administration of native affairs. A conference in London should afford an especially favourable opportunity, such as will not recur for some time to come, of pooling the views and experience of an exceptionally large and well-informed membership on the causes and effects of detribalisation, and should opinion incline to the view that it is inevitable in the long run, of the best means of controlling and guiding it in the interests of the native. It is, perhaps, too much to hope for any approach towards a native policy common to all the powers and based on a thorough scientific study of the native, which would have any prospect of adoption by the countries represented at the conference.

Indian Rhinoceros at the London Zoo

FELLOWS of the Zoological Society, and the public at large, are greatly indebted to the King, who is the patron of the Society, for the young rhinoceros from Nepal which he has just given for permanent exhibition. It was presented to His Majesty by Maharajah Sir Judha Shumshere Jung, Prime Minister and Commander-in-chief of Nepal. Though the Society has two African rhinoceroses, it has only one Indian, which was presented by the Maharajah of Nepal nearly ten years ago; and since this animal is now found only in Nepal, where it is in sore need of protection if it is to escape speedy extermination, the recent gift is a valuable one. It will be interesting to compare the new arrival, which is 1½-2 years old,

not only with the fully adult animal, but also with the African species, because of the striking and singular differences displayed by the two species in the matter of what one might almost call the 'armour-plating' formed by the hide. No one has yet been able to find any explanation for the fact that in the Indian species this forms what looks like a series of separate shields, or 'bucklers', studded with relatively small round bosses, while in the African species the hide forms a continuous covering. Again, we seek in vain for any intelligible explanation of the fact that while the African species has two nasal horns, in the Indian and other Asiatic rhinoceroses there is but one horn. There are, of course, other structural differences between these two types, which, some day, may be compared with all the known fossil remains. When this has been done, we may well find clues such as will help us to gain an insight as to the factors and mode of evolution of these singularly interesting ungulates.

#### The Old Ashmolean, Oxford

THE two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Old Ashmolean, Oxford, falls on May 21, a date duly recorded by Elias Ashmole, donor of its original possessions. In recognition of this occasion, Dr. R. T. Gunther, curator of the Lewis Evans Collection of Scientific Instruments, housed in the Old Ashmolean, has been able to conclude a series of arrangements to mark the event. Here it may be mentioned that the Old Ashmolean building itself was erected between 1679 and 1683, and is attributed, on fairly good grounds, to Christopher Wren. The appropriateness of this historic establishment for the housing of the Lewis Evans collection of ancient scientific instruments was demonstrated in 1925, when this notable gift to Oxford was dedicated by the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres at a special meeting held in the Old Ashmolean, and the collection was declared open. The principal celebration arrangements referred to above comprise a reception by the curator of the Lewis Evans Collection, on Sunday, May 21, whilst on May 22, at 2.30 p.m., in the University Museum, Sir Arthur Smith Woodward will deliver a lecture on "Plot and Lhwyd and the Dawn of Geology". These naturalists were the first keepers of the Old Ashmolean. During the week, exhibitions of Ashmolean interest will be open to the public, including portraits and relics, books, manuscripts, and engravings.

#### Centenary of the University of Zurich

THE centenary celebrations of the University of Zurich, which extended from April 28 until May 1, attracted a large number of delegates from the universities and learned societies of the world. At the chief ceremony, held in the noble 'Lichthof' of the University on April 29, the addresses of the Rector (Prof. F. Fleiner) and the director of education of Canton Zurich (Dr. O. Wettstein) were followed by congratulatory speeches by selected representatives of the various nations. The delegates from the British Isles were Prof. A. E. Zimmern (Oxford),

Prof. G. H. F. Nuttall (Cambridge), Dr. T. Loveday (Bristol), Sir Henry Miers (Royal Society), Prof. J. Read (St. Andrews), Prof. E. Dieth (Aberdeen), Prof. J. H. S. Burleigh (Edinburgh), and Prof. F. E. Hackett (Dublin). At its foundation, the teaching staff of the University comprised twenty-three professors, thirty-three lecturers, and 161 students; at the present day, it has about a hundred professors, ninety lecturers, and some 2,000 matriculated students. In 1908, the University took a great step forward as a result of a referendum in which the people of Canton Zurich voted in favour of the provision of extensive new accommodation: "durch den Willen des Volkes", runs the inscription carved in stone over the western entrance to the magnificent central building which was erected at that time. The city of Zurich was *en fête* during the celebrations, and the popular interest and pride in the cantonal university were pleasingly evident on every hand. "Akademische Lehr- und Lernfreiheit ist an ihr geltend", is a significant sentence occurring in the original statutes of the University, and the adherence of the University, the canton, and the Swiss nation to the cherished ideals of freedom and toleration formed the keynote of most of the speeches at the celebrations.

#### Huxley and Scientific Education

HUXLEY memorial lectures have been delivered at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, annually since 1925 to commemorate the life and work of Thomas Henry Huxley, who was born on May 4, 1825, was professor of biology from 1854, and dean of the Royal College (then Normal School) of Science and Royal School of Mines from 1881 until his death in 1895. The lecture this year was delivered by Prof. H. E. Armstrong, who, as a pupil of Huxley's, and as professor of chemistry at the Central Technical College, and equally concerned with the outlook and methods of education, was able to garnish his tribute with personal reminiscence and with forceful criticism of the scientific world as it appears to him to-day. Huxley's reputation as a master of education rests, he said, mainly upon his writings and public addresses, not upon his work as a teacher. "He was a marvellous exponent—therefore, a bad teacher, as are all who are eloquent"; "a master of fine logic, but encased in hard bones". Prof. Armstrong attended some of Huxley's lectures, but they failed to hold the interest of one who hoped to learn how things had been found out; nevertheless, he ever regretted that he did not attend the Working Men's Lectures, in which Huxley told a consecutive story.

PROF. ARMSTRONG said he knew no book from which more general inspiration is to be derived than from the third volume of Huxley's essays, "Science and Education", though it was published in 1895 and goes back to 1854; yet there is little in the essays bearing on actual teaching. Huxley was insistent on the need for organisation. "In the sense in which he meant it, we remain unorganised to-day, whilst the need is much greater. Many may think that his